The "Exciting"
SHBC
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Week 2: Believe in the Impossible

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 | Background: Luke 18:27

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

LUKE 1: 26-28

A teenage girl is going about her ordinary life when an angel appears with an impossible assignment: "You will conceive and give birth to the Son of the Most High." Mary could have refused. She could have asked for proof, demanded a different plan, insisted on something that made sense. But instead, she said yes—to confusion, to scandal, to a future she couldn't control. In Week 2, we watch Mary face the moment that changed everything and discover what it looks like to say yes when God asks for something humanly impossible. Her courage invites us to ask: What is God asking me to believe in that defies human logic?

Think: I can trust God even when His plan doesn't make sense to me.

Feel: Courageous enough to say yes when God asks me to do something difficult or impossible.

Do: Identify one thing God may be asking you to trust Him with and take one step of obedience this week.

Read Luke 1:26-38

Mary received a message from God that would have sounded absolutely impossible. The angel, Gabriel, appeared to her and told her: You are going to have a child. Not just any child. You will give birth to the Son of the Most High. The Savior. The Messiah. The Son of God. And Mary's response is one of the most remarkable examples of faith in all of Scripture. Because Mary had every reason to say no. She had every reason to say, "That doesn't make sense." But instead, Mary said yes.

POINT #1: GOD'S PLAN DOESN'T ALWAYS MAKE SENSE

Her story asks us a question that every one of us has to wrestle with at some point: What do you do when God asks you to believe in something that seems impossible? It's easy to have faith when God's plan makes sense. It's easy to trust when you can see the outcome. It's easy to say yes when you

understand what you're saying yes to. But what happens when God asks you to take a step that doesn't make sense? What happens when God's plan doesn't fit your plan? What happens when obedience requires you to trust God more than you trust your own understanding?

Discussion Question: How do you make sense out of something important that does not make any sense? Explain your answer.

Christmas is a story about God doing what humanity could never do on its own. And it begins with a teenage girl being asked to trust God with something that seemed completely impossible.

POINT #2 – GOD CAN DO WHAT WE CANNOT

That's what makes a miracle a miracle. If we could explain it, control it, or accomplish it on our own, we wouldn't call it a miracle.

Read Luke 18:27

Gabriel didn't come to Mary and say, "Mary, I've got a really difficult assignment for you, but don't worry. You've got this." He didn't say, "Mary, this is going to be challenging, but if you work hard enough, plan carefully enough, and make the right decisions, you can make this happen." No. God was asking Mary to participate in something only He could accomplish. And maybe that's the point some of us need to hear today. God will sometimes ask you to trust Him with something you could never accomplish on your own. Because God isn't limited by the limits that limit us. We see the limits. God sees the possibility. We see the obstacle. God sees the opportunity. We see the impossibility. God sees divine possibility.

Discussion Primer: Tell of a time you participated in a miracle of God.

When you have God's promise, you can take the next step - even when you can't see the whole path. That's exactly what Mary did. She said yes. And here's the incredible thing about Mary's yes: God used it to accomplish something far greater than Mary could have ever imagined.

POINT #3 – YOUR YES CAN BECOME PART OF GOD'S MIRACLE

There's one more thing we don't want us to miss.

Read Luke 1:38

Mary's yes wasn't just about Mary. Her obedience became part of something much bigger than herself. God was using Mary's yes to bring Jesus into the world. Think about that. A young girl in an ordinary town said yes to God. And through that yes, God was accomplishing His plan of salvation. And I wonder how often God does the same thing with us. We think our obedience is insignificant. We think: "What difference could this possibly make?" But you don't always get to see what God does with your obedience. You don't know what happens when you invite someone to church. You don't know what happens when you forgive someone. You don't know what happens when you serve. You don't know what happens when you give generously. You don't know what happens when you have that difficult conversation. You don't know what happens when you finally surrender something you've been holding onto. You don't know what happens when you say yes to something God has been asking you to do.

You may never see the entire impact. But that doesn't mean your yes doesn't matter. God can do extraordinary things with ordinary people's obedience. Mary was ordinary. Her assignment was extraordinary. The same is true for us.

Discussion Question: Mary's "yes" didn't mean she understood everything - it meant she trusted God anyway. What's the difference between having all the answers and having faith?

IMPLICATIONS & ACTIONS

What is God asking you to believe that seems impossible? Maybe it's something in your family. Maybe it's something in your marriage. Maybe it's something in your future. Maybe it's something about your calling. Maybe it's something God has been asking you to surrender. Maybe it's something you know you need to do, but you've been afraid to take the first step. Remember Mary's response: "Let it be with me according to your word." You don't have to understand everything. You simply have to decide: Will I trust God enough to say yes?

